

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

Recreational and Commercial Fisheries Closure, Barataria and Terrebonne Basins and Territorial Seas

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953(B) and R.S. 49:967(D) of the Administrative Procedure Act, which allows the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission to use emergency procedures to set shrimp seasons, and R.S. 56:6.1 which provides the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries with authority to declare a closed season on any and all species of fish found or existing in the waters of the state, and a resolution adopted by the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission on May 6, 2010 which granted the secretary the authority to open any area, or re-open any previously closed area, of inside waters to shrimping based upon biological and technical data, the secretary hereby closes to all recreational and commercial fishing that portion of state inside waters south of 29 degrees 30 minutes 00 seconds north latitude and north of the inside/outside shrimp line, from the western shore of the Mississippi River westward to the western shore of Bayou Lafourche, and that portion of state inside waters south of 29 degrees 21 minutes 00 seconds north latitude and north of the inside/outside shrimp line from the western shore of Bayou Lafourche westward to 91 degrees 20 minutes 20 seconds west longitude, and that portion of state outside waters seaward of the inside/outside shrimp line from 91 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds west longitude westward to 91 degrees 20 minutes 20 seconds west longitude effective immediately May 22, 2010.

The Deep Horizon drilling rig accident has resulted in a significant release of hydrocarbon pollutants into the waters offshore of southeast Louisiana and these pollutants have the potential to impact fish and other aquatic life in portions of these coastal waters. Efforts have been made and are continuing to be made to minimize the potential threats to fish and other aquatic life. Based upon confirmed reports of oil within a portion of this area, the secretary has determined that this area shall close to all recreational and commercial fishing effective immediately May 22, 2010.

Robert J. Barham
Secretary